

Going back in time is a real hoot with old paper

By Ms. Karen Pettitt

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — The beauty of newspapers is that you can look back and giggle at some of the craziest things people used to put in them. It's amazing to see how far even journalistic standards have come.

I've been scanning papers from the early '70s when the "intercom" was a 20-page, 11x17 collection of girlie photos, cartoons, house ads, safety warnings, poets corners and lots of personal letters and notes from people about their lives.

Of course there was the news about pay and benefits, conferences, awards and even the Combined Federal Campaign reports.

However, in this one particular issue there's an article about pseudofolliculitis, which is a term I've used for any kind of ailment or malady I might have just because it's a great word to pronounce.

There's an article on social actions awareness, alcohol problems and even a "ding dong award." Yep, you heard right. It was an award that went to anyone caught not wearing a seatbelt. Some poor sergeant was the first one to receive it so he got his picture in the paper. Apparently the

idea was to have this "ding dong" catch another person not wearing a seat belt and then pass it along. It didn't take long for people to catch on to wear their seatbelts.

One of my favorite entries is a photo of a sergeant who made a poster after his baby girl was born. Apparently the unit had been undergoing budget reductions and he, likewise, was not about to hand out cigars. Hence, the sign said: "It's a girl. Branham's cost reduction. In view of the following: 1. Deutsche mark reduction, 2. Cost of raising another child, 3. Increasing cost of educating said child, 4. General dissatisfaction with age old custom involved ... the following cost reduction program is hereby initiated: Roll your own."

The one thing hopefully readers are glad for in the modern era is type styles that make stories much easier to read. Nonetheless, looking back through old papers is not only educational, but entertaining too. So, here are a few more gems actually seen in the "intercom" from 1971.



UGH! Maj. William D. Cobb of the 1833 EI Sq. shows why he finished fourth in the ugly-commander contest. Votes were 1 cent each and the money, a total of \$512.62, went to fight drug abuse.



Green weenie of the week award

A sergeant with the AFCS's Det. 7 came up with a clever award for people who received unwanted tasks involving workloads "above and beyond" the call of duty, such as grass mowing and trash pick up. Maybe this is something that could be revived? I think there'd be a lot of green weenie awards presented throughout the Air Force then ... although we probably should call it the "blue" weenie award.

You think this is ridiculous?

Showing pin-up girls is one thing, but the captions are just as wild. One photo I saw was a lady in her bra leaning on a pillow and the caption said that she was "well cushioned." In another photo, an Airman is reading a newly installed bulletin board full of safety tips and news items. But lo, what's right smack dab in the middle of the board? You guessed it — a naked lady.



NEW YEAR'S RULE — This lovely damsel feels that it is a neat, well-groomed appearance — not a ruler — that most people use to judge the measure of a person. Obviously, she has taken her own advice.